United Nations A/69/921

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 June 2015

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 138
Joint Inspection Unit

Recommendations to the General Assembly for the determination of parameters for a comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled: "Recommendations to the General Assembly for the determination of parameters for a comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States".

15-08704 (E) 040615

Please recycle

JIU/REP/2015/2

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR THE DETERMINATION OF PARAMETERS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM SUPPORT FOR SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Prepared by

Jean Wesley Cazeau
Papa Louis Fall

Joint Inspection Unit

Geneva 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recommendations to the General Assembly of the United Nations for the determination of parameters for a comprehensive review of United Nations System support for small island developing States

JIU/REP/2015/2

Objective and scope

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/217 of 19 December 2014, in paragraph 12 of which the Assembly recalled paragraphs 116 to 120 of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Samoa in September 2014, and, in that regard requested the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)

> **to make recommendations in order to facilitate the work of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session in determining, as soon as possible, and by no later than March 2015, the parameters of a comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States, with a view to enhancing the overall effectiveness of such support and respective roles in supporting the sustainable development of small island developing States in order to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach by the United Nations system to further improve and strengthen its overall effectiveness.**

The SAMOA Pathway was endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 69/15 of 14 November 2014. In line with its paragraphs 116 to 120, the present report focuses on the institutional support provided by the United Nations system to small island developing States (SIDS), identifying areas that should be addressed in a comprehensive review to strengthen implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

In preparing the report, the Inspectors met with representatives of Member States and officials of the United Nations system organizations. On the basis of their findings from interviews in New York and Geneva, the Inspectors recalibrated the scope and coverage of their review to focus on the analysis of institutional support and coordination mechanisms, interlinkages between intergovernmental processes and inter-agency processes in New York, and the mandates and roles of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS). DESA and OHRLLS are at the core of the architecture for United Nations system support for SIDS (see annex I).

The review provides a preliminary synthesis of data collected through a system-wide survey completed by more than 20 JIU participating organizations and the secretariats of environmental conventions, to assess the contribution they make to the priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway, by means of implementation. The data reveal strong ongoing support for work in the areas of climate change, sustainable energy, poverty eradication and gender equality, inter alia (see annex II). The format of the present report, its restricted scope and the time constraints laid down in resolution 69/217 did not allow for extensive use of the information collected, which will remain available for further analysis, should JIU be tasked with undertaking a comprehensive review in the future.

Main findings

The review resulted in the following findings:

(a) Need for clarification of roles and linkages: improved communication and mechanisms for system-wide coordination must be put in place to increase the effectiveness of system-wide institutional support for SIDS;

(b) Overlap and lack of clarity: the existing grey areas and overlap in the mandates of the OHRLLS and DESA Units for SIDS, combined with barely perceptible coordination between them and a weak communication strategy, generates confusion among Member States with regard to identifying roles, responsibilities, achievements and interlocutors within the United Nations Secretariat.

(c) The limited resources allocated to the DESA and OHRLLS Units for SIDS — fewer than 10 staff members — and the dispersal of the Units, which are embedded in two separate entities of the United Nations Secretariat, do not assist with meeting the expectations of Member States in addressing ever-expanding mandates;

(d) The Climate Change Support Team of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General: in view of the relevance of climate change for SIDS, stronger coordination with DESA and OHRLLS should be set up in strengthening the institutional support provided by the United Nations Secretariat;

(e) Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) for SIDS: the Group, which is chaired by DESA, is a hybrid inter-agency forum for organizations providing support to SIDS to meet to exchange information and cooperate. Its role is as yet unclear to external stakeholders and the criteria for membership, which involves non-United Nations system entities, are not clearly defined.

(f) Greater interaction with SIDS representatives and, in particular, with the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), should be institutionalized;

(g) The role of funds, programmes and specialized agencies: these were found to be essential for translating headquarters mandates into action in the field. Such linkages should be strengthened in order to consolidate system-wide institutional support for SIDS and achieve more effective delivery at the regional and country levels;

(h) The role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as a pioneering organization which has supported the development of SIDS for decades should be reassessed and revalorized, on the basis of its extensive expertise and knowledge of the vulnerabilities and needs of SIDS;

(i) The role of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Development Group (UNDG)/United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office (UNDOCO), the resident coordinator system and the regional commissions, as well as other regional political and technical forums, should be addressed in the comprehensive review in designing a system-wide strategy for effective implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

(j) The role of the environmental conventions: environmental vulnerability with regard to issues such as climate change, biodiversity, oceans, chemicals and waste management is a common concern among SIDS. A comprehensive review could assess the adequacy of the current institutional set-up to effectively connect the work developed under the umbrella of the environmental conventions to the overall system-wide support for SIDS.

The report resulted in six recommendations to the General Assembly, aimed at ensuring that the review contributes to improving effectiveness, coordination, accountability and communication, and to strengthening synergies among the various institutional partners in the system, with a view to achieving better service delivery for small island developing States.

Recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly of the United Nations

Recommendation 1

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review addresses the necessary linkages between the SAMOA Pathway and the United Nations global mandates on related key issues, such as the post-2015 development agenda, disaster risk reduction, financing for development, climate change, chemicals and waste management, human rights and gender equality, with a view to strengthening system-wide coherence and ensuring effective system-wide support for the sustainable development of SIDS through adequate provision of resources.

Recommendation 2

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review evaluates the current allocation of resources, as well as their effective and efficient use, at the United Nations Secretariat at Headquarters, with a view to improving governance and effective coordination in the delivery of the mandates given by the General Assembly to DESA and OHRLLS to support SIDS.

Recommendation 3

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review identifies all relevant entities of the United Nations Secretariat, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the regional commissions, contributing to support for the sustainable development of small island developing States, and that it proposes effective ways for the Secretariat to strengthen its programmatic coordination and integrated reporting.

Recommendation 4

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review assesses the role and functioning of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States (IACG) and proposes concrete measures to strengthen its effectiveness as a coordinating forum, involving all the relevant institutional partners, from the United Nations system and non-United Nations entities, such as the international financial institutions, to foster the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and to facilitate its monitoring.

Recommendation 5

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review analyses the institutional set-up in place in accordance with paragraphs 122 to 124 of the SAMOA Pathway and the coordination process aimed at monitoring and reporting on its effective implementation, with a view to preventing overlap and fostering synergies across the United Nations system.

Recommendation 6

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review addresses institutional and managerial mechanisms for strengthening coordination between DESA and OHRLLS in performing the tasks related to their respective mandates on support to SIDS, in order to avoid overlap and enhance the effectiveness of their work, and to increase transparency in their communication with Member States.

Contents

Chapter		*Paragraphs*	*Page*
	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY		3
	ABBREVIATIONS		7
I.	INTRODUCTION	1–6	9
II.	INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES: MANDATES AND MAPPING OF KEY PARTNERS	7–76	10
	A. United Nations global mandates	7–10	10
	B. Mapping of key partners in the United Nations system	11–32	11
	C. United Nations system organizations	33–76	15
III.	OTHER FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	77–90	23
	A. Monitoring and accountability framework for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway	77–78	23
	B. Communication and information sharing between the United Nations Secretariat and representatives of Member States	79–84	23
	C. Coordination between the United Nations Secretariat at Headquarters and other entities of the United Nations system	85–90	24
Annexes			
I.	Mandates of DESA and OHRLLS on SIDS		26
II.	United Nations system contribution to the SAMOA Pathway – results of the JIU survey		27
III.	Selected samples of activities of the United Nations system organizations and environmental conventions in support of SIDS		30
IV.	SIDS groups in United Nations organizations and international forums		32

ABBREVIATIONS

AIMS	Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
BPOA	Barbados Programme of Action
BRS	Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
CARICOM	Caribbean Community and Common Market
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDP	Committee for Development Policy, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
CEB	United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination
COP	Conference of the Parties
DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECESA	Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EMG	Environment Management Group (UNEP)
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HLCM	High-Level Committee on Management
HLCP	High-Level Committee on Programmes
HLPF	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
IACG	Inter-Agency Consultative Group for SIDS
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
LDC	Least Developed Countries
MEA	Multilateral environmental agreement
MSI	Mauritius Strategy Initiative
OHRLLS	Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island developing States
PIF	Pacific Islands Forum
SAMOA	Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA)
SDG	Sustainable development goal
SIDS	Small island developing States

UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCT	United Nations country team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDG LAC	UNDG for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNDOCO	United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNOSSC	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
UN-Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNWTO	World Tourism Organization
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WFP	World Food Programme
WHC	World Heritage Convention (UNESCO)
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 12 of its resolution 69/217, adopted on 19 December 2014, the General Assembly, recalled paragraphs 116 to 120 of the SAMOA Pathway[1] and requested the Joint Inspection Unit:

> *to make recommendations in order to facilitate the work of the General Assembly* at its sixty-ninth session in determining, as soon as possible, and by *no later than March 2015*, the parameters of a *comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States*, with a view to *enhancing the overall effectiveness of such support and respective roles* in supporting the sustainable development of small island developing States in order to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach by the United Nations system to further improve and strengthen its overall effectiveness and delivery with respect to small island developing States and the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of small island developing States and the SAMOA Pathway;[2]

2. In response to that request, the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) included such a review in its programme of work for 2015, adopted at its resumed winter session in January 2015. A survey was launched through questionnaires addressed to 28 United Nations system organizations and secretariats of environmental conventions. Interviews with representatives of Member States and officials of the organizations were held in New York and Geneva. Videoconferences were organized with small island developing States (SIDS) field offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

3. As a result of the findings from the interviews and videoconferences, the initial scope of the review was reduced, to focus on identifying weaknesses in the institutional support to SIDS, as well as potential areas for improvement and scope for synergies. On the basis of those findings, the Inspectors propose six recommendations to the General Assembly to facilitate its work in defining the parameters of a comprehensive review to be undertaken in the future.

4. Given the tight deadline of March 2015, organizations were requested on very short notice to contribute to the review and were not given the opportunity, usually provided by JIU standard practice, to comment on the final draft. The time constraints and the format of the present report did not allow for it to fully reflect the wealth of information received through the survey. That information will be kept available for further use and analysis, should JIU be tasked with undertaking the comprehensive review referred to in paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 69/217.

5. In accordance with article 11.2 of the JIU statute, the present report has been completed after consultation among the Inspectors with a view to testing its conclusions and recommendations against the collective wisdom of the Unit.

6. The Inspectors would like to thank the JIU participating organizations and the secretariats of the environmental conventions, as well as other stakeholders that contributed to the findings of the present review for their valuable input, and express their appreciation to all who provided assistance in the preparation of the present report, and particularly to those who participated in the interviews and so willingly shared their knowledge and expertise.

[1] The "SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway" resulted from the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Samoa in September 2014. It was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 69/15 of 14 November 2014.

[2] Emphasis added by the Inspectors.

II. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES: MANDATES AND MAPPING OF KEY PARTNERS

A. United Nations global mandates

7. In March 2015, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted in Japan. Other universal mandates highly relevant to SIDS will be renewed during 2015, such as Financing for Development (in Addis Ababa in May), the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals (SDGs) (in New York in September) and the climate change framework (at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Paris in December).[3]

8. At the closing ceremony of the International Year of Small Island Developing States[4] in February 2015, the need for a sustainable development package embracing the linkages between global mandates and the SAMOA Pathway was brought up. The implementation of the SAMOA Pathway should take place within the broader framework of the United Nations development agenda, in line with paragraph 3 of the Pathway, which addresses the overarching principles for supporting the sustainable development of SIDS.[5]

9. This is clearly indicated in the statement of the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS)[6] at the stocktaking session of the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda in January 2015:

> The post-2015 development agenda must therefore advance the priorities of SIDS. And these priorities have been clearly articulated in the SAMOA Pathway agreed to last year. We strongly reiterate that the SAMOA Pathway, as the SIDS contribution to the post-2015 development agenda, must be fully integrated into our discussions and into the final agenda.[7]

In the light of the above, and in order to ensure system-wide coherence and effectiveness in implementing the SAMOA Pathway within the overarching framework provided by the United Nations development agenda, the Inspectors recommend that:

Recommendation 1

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review addresses the necessary linkages between the SAMOA Pathway and the United Nations global mandates on related key issues, such as the post-2015 development agenda, disaster risk reduction, financing for development, climate change, chemicals and waste management, human rights and gender equality, with a view to strengthening system-wide coherence and ensuring effective system-wide support for the sustainable development of SIDS through adequate provision of resources.

10. Mapping of key stakeholders and their respective mandates to support SIDS within the United Nations system is presented below, including inter-agency/intergovernmental mechanisms. Mapping aims at facilitating

[3] http://www.wcdrr.org/uploads/Sendai_Framework_for_Disaster_Risk_Reduction_2015-2030.pdf.

[4] See http://unohrlls.org/news/24-february-2015-reviewing-a-big-year-for-small-islands/.

[5] The need for the sustainable development of small islands was addressed in 1992 in Agenda 21, chapter 17, section G.

[6] Information on AOSIS membership and different SIDS groupings used within the United Nations system and other international forums is provided in annex IV.

[7] See statement delivered by Ahmed Sareer, Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations, on behalf of AOSIS, available from http://aosis.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/2015.01.19-Statement-Stocktaking-General-FINAL.pdf.

the determination of parameters to clarify roles and identify coordination mechanisms to ensure effective delivery of institutional and capacity-building support to SIDS by the United Nations system.

B. Mapping of key partners in the United Nations system

United Nations Secretariat at Headquarters

11. At the United Nations Secretariat at Headquarters, two units are mandated to deal with SIDS. They share the same name although they are embedded in different parts of the Secretariat:

(a) The SIDS Unit hosted by the Division of Sustainable Development of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA);

(b) The SIDS Unit of the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS).

12. The establishment of an entity within the predecessor of DESA, the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, to address SIDS issues was requested as early as December 1994 by the General Assembly in paragraph 15 of resolution 49/122, in which it requested

> the Secretary-General to establish within the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development *a clearly identifiable entity* with the *resources and number of qualified and competent professional and support staff that are necessary to undertake its broad range of functions* in support of the system-wide implementation of the Programme of Action. [8]

13. The establishment of the Small Island Developing States Unit within the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development was noted by the General Assembly in resolution 50/116 in 1996.

14. Salient threats now identified were largely unknown at the time of the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS, held in Barbados in 1994, such as vulnerability to climate change, an area in which science had not yet provided the sound knowledge for policy-making that is now available through the regular reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Climate change is a matter of survival for most SIDS, and resources required to address their needs are even more critical and urgent than at the time the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) was adopted.

15. The successive General Assembly resolutions on SIDS refer to the need to strengthen the DESA/SIDS Unit and to provide it with adequate resources. The historical evolution of the mandates on SIDS led to a long list of assignments to DESA, and later on to OHRLLS, within the Secretariat (see annex I). The ever-expanding mandates of both Units gave rise to some grey areas, paving the way for potential duplication and lack of clarity.

16. In 2002, further to the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the General Assembly, in its resolution 56/227, established OHRLLS, with the main objective of ensuring a highly visible, efficient and effective follow-up and monitoring arrangement for the implementation of programmes of action for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. [9]

17. In practice, work previously assigned to DESA for SIDS and to UNCTAD for least-developed countries (LDCs) was redistributed and assigned to OHRLLS. DESA has retained the responsibility for preparing analysis and providing input for the Secretary-General's report, while OHRLLS is responsible for resource mobilization, coordination and advocacy. The monitoring task is carried out jointly, with input from OHRLLS being channelled through DESA for the preparation of the Secretary-General's report.

---

[8] Emphasis added.

[9] See the OHRLLS mandate on SIDS, available from http://unohrlls.org/about-sids/un-ohrlls-mandate/.

18. The tasks of DESA include inter-agency co-ordination, advisory services and capacity building support, information dissemination, and facilitating, monitoring and reporting of the implementation of the SIDS conference outcomes, as listed below:

- Establish (strengthen – 59/229) SIDSnet within the Unit and assist SIDS with, inter alia, project implementation advice and assistance in the identification of short-and long-term capacity needs through coordination **with regional and international institutions**. (General Assembly resolution 56/198);
- Increasing and improving the **United Nations system-wide coordination and dissemination of information** on activities in support of SIDS and BPOA (General Assembly resolution 56/198);
- Enhance coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system **and with other relevant multilateral organizations** to ensure the effective implementation and monitoring of, and follow-up to, the outcome of the 10-year review of BPOA (General Assembly resolution 58/213).

19. According to information from interviews with OHRLLS officials, its mandate to support SIDS was strengthened following the Mauritius and Samoa Conferences on SIDS and includes new issues, those of ensuring coherence and synergies at the global, regional and national levels, and of mainstreaming the SAMOA Pathway into the work of the United Nations system organizations. The areas of potential duplication and overlap with DESA have thus expanded. In addition to the ongoing collaboration, clearer delineation of responsibilities between the two Units would contribute to improving coordination and avoiding duplication.

20. The dual assignment of functions is aggravated by the fact that the two SIDS Units are embedded in different departments within the United Nations Secretariat, with no clearly established lines of coordination, which generates lack of clarity on closely related areas of their mandates, as recognized by stakeholders during the research undertaken for the present review.[10]

21. The overall resources of OHRLLS and DESA for the provision of support to SIDS and, in particular, for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, amount to fewer than 10 staff members, to respond to ever-expanding mandates.[11] Noting that Secretariat resources fall under the purview of the Secretary-General, and believing that the dispersal of resources between different departments might not be the most effective way to use them, **the Inspectors are of the view that Member States should consider exploring the pertinence of a reorganization of existing resources aimed at enhanced effectiveness in jointly delivering results.**

22. The need for improved coordination was addressed in the interviews. However, some SIDS representatives also indicated that the DESA/SIDS Unit was not being adequately supported nor given the means to adequately respond to the urgent issues relevant to SIDS. The recent disaster in the Pacific as a result of Cyclone Pam[12] underlines that, while natural disasters cannot be avoided as such, their impact is proportional to the vulnerability profile of the affected States. **The Inspectors are of the view that it is urgent for the United Nations system to effectively contribute to building resilience in SIDS in order to reduce their vulnerability to climate change and other related events.** Coordination at United Nations Headquarters is essential to spearhead successful, more effective, targeted support for SIDS to address critical threats to their survival.[13]

23. The Inspectors noted that the support given by the United Nations to address special needs of LDCs, in particular to Africa through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and lessons learned from

[10] Similar issues were raised in the background paper for the Committee on Development Policy (CDP) of the Economic and Social Council. Five years later, many issues were still relevant. See CDP Background Paper No. 10 (ST/ESA/2010/CDP/10), June 2010, "Views and perspectives of the Committee for Development Policy on United Nations support for small island developing States", by Philippe Hein. Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/cdp_background_papers/bp2010_10.pdf.

[11] DESA SIDS Unit: 1 P5, 1 P4, 1 P2, 2 GS OL; OHRLLS SIDS Unit: 1 P4 and 1 P2.

[12] http://www.wcdrr.org/news?id=43138.

[13] See participation of OHRLLS at the Sendai Conference, March 2015, available from http://unohrlls.org/SIDS-High-Level-Sendai/.

such experiences could be emulated by putting in place a strategy in favour of SIDS as a group with special needs, addressing their vulnerability profiles.[14] A comprehensive review could explore how to implement such a system-wide strategy for SIDS.

24. The Inspectors were informed that the level of representation of the DESA/SIDS unit was considered too low, being submerged within the diversity of the overall structure of DESA and having to run on resources from different DESA departments. **The Inspectors are of the view that there should be a reassessment of the existing needs and capacity for delivery in relation to the SIDS mandate given to DESA, in order to ensure that capacity is commensurate with the tasks assigned and to avoid the dispersal of expertise and resources within the Secretariat.**

25. The Inspectors also met in New York with officials of the Climate Change Support Team of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG CCT). It provides support to SIDS, by addressing some specific needs of SIDS as part of climate change-related priorities. Reference was made to initiatives of the Secretary-General such as the SIDS Lighthouse initiative, introduced in the context of the Climate Summit convened by the Secretary-General in September 2014.[15] The Climate Change Support Team is not involved in IACG. EOSG CCT engages in interaction related to climate change directly with the countries concerned, either through its dialogue with AOSIS, its contribution to the Paris 2015 process (see para. 7 above), or through the resident coordinator system.

26. While there is collaboration on an ad hoc basis between EOSG CCT and OHRLLS or DESA, it is not structured along any established regular line of collaboration. Since this all takes place within the United Nations Secretariat, there might be some room for improving coherence and synergies.

In order to enhance the adequacy of, and cost-effectiveness in the use of, resources allocated to supporting sustainable development for SIDS, the Inspectors recommend that:

Recommendation 2

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review evaluates the current allocation of resources, as well as their effective and efficient use, at the United Nations Secretariat at Headquarters, with a view to improving governance and effective coordination in the delivery of the mandates given by the General Assembly to DESA and OHRLLS to support SIDS.

United Nations entities away from Headquarters

27. Some United Nations entities away from Headquarters, such as the regional commissions, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) have relevant roles in addressing SIDS-related issues in the context of their core mandates. UNCTAD was a pioneer within the United Nations system in dealing with SIDS and has recognized expertise in addressing key trade and development issues for SIDS. OHRLLS was launched after the third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries with resources redeployed from UNCTAD, which was, and still is, a key organization in relation to support for SIDS issues. The work of UNISDR, which is in charge of disaster risk reduction issues particularly relevant to SIDS, is also a cornerstone element of the integrated institutional support for SIDS from the United Nations system.

[14] DESA has developed expertise on Vulnerability-Resilience Profiles methodology as per paragraph 115 (c) of General Assembly resolution 69/15. See report of an expert group meeting organized by DESA in January 2015 at http://www.sidsnet.org/sites/default/files/resources/report_of_egm_on_vrp_26-28_jan.pdf.

[15] The SIDS Lighthouse Initiative is a framework for action aimed at a programmatic deployment of renewables in SIDS to enable transformation of their energy systems, taking into consideration all relevant aspects, ranging from policy and market frameworks through technology options to capacity-building. See www.un.org/climatechange/summit/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2014/09/ENERGY-SIDS-Lighthouse-Initiative.pdf.

28. The regional commissions are instrumental as interfaces with other regional institutions in the SIDS regions (the Pacific, the Caribbean and the Atlantic, and the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean and South China Seas)[16] from the United Nations system and other institutional policy and technical forums. The regional commissions were specifically identified in the Rio+20 outcome and in the SAMOA Pathway as playing a key role in supporting sustainable development.[17]

29. ESCAP has set up a Pacific Office in Fiji, for the purposes of bringing a dedicated and focused attention to challenges of SIDS in the Pacific subregion. ECLAC has set up a subregional office for the Caribbean in Port-of-Spain.[18] In preparing the present review, some SIDS representatives from the AIMS region indicated that the United Nations should consider setting up a coordinating mechanism for the AIMS region, the only one without any subregional representation. Currently, efforts are being made to expand institutional coordination in the AIMS region through discussions between the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and UNDP, inter alia.

30. Enhanced decentralization of decision-making and the provision of adequate resources for the regional commissions to increase their impact in their respective regions would enhance the effectiveness of field work in support of SIDS.

31. Entities away from Headquarters such as the regional commissions have some interaction with either DESA or OHRLLS. The review findings indicate that collaboration between them takes place mainly on an ad hoc basis, and that there are no regular platforms or mechanisms of exchange for coordinated planning to support SIDS, other than their participation as members of IACG, chaired by DESA.[19]

32. The enhancement of coordination between United Nations Secretariat at Headquarters and entities away from Headquarters should be addressed by the comprehensive review. The expertise developed by UNCTAD in providing advisory services to SIDS on trade and development issues, taking into account their specific vulnerabilities, should not be neglected. The work of UNCTAD for SIDS is built around the paramount development goal for SIDS of resilience-building, a goal none of them would be able to realize without external support; hence the role of the United Nations system. UNCTAD publications issued in September 2014, in the wake of the SAMOA Conference, confirm that UNCTAD is ahead of the curve in addressing the needs of SIDS.[20]

The Inspectors are of the view that implementation of the following recommendation would facilitate enhanced coordination and effectiveness in the activities of the Secretariat:

Recommendation 3

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review identifies all relevant entities of the United Nations Secretariat, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the regional commissions, contributing to support for the sustainable development of small island developing States, and that it proposes effective ways for the Secretariat to strengthen its programmatic coordination and integrated reporting.

[16] The Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas group of SIDS (the AIMS group), owing to its geographical dispersion, comes under three different regional commissions': the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

[17] See paras. 109 (a) on capacity-building and para. 122 on monitoring of SAMOA pathway implementation. With regard to cooperation among regional commissions, a review by JIU is planned for 2015.

[18] See http://www.cepal.org/portofspain/.

[19] See para. 46, below.

[20] See *The Oceans Economy: Opportunities and Challenges for Small Island Developing States* (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2014/5) and *Addressing the vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States more effectively* (UNCTAD/LDC/2014), September 2014.

C. United Nations system organizations

33. More than 20 organizations of the United Nations system responded to the survey conducted by JIU for the present review.[21] The results reveal varied, active support for SIDS, addressing the needs of SIDS within the purview of the organizations' mandates. Committed as they are to the implementation of system-wide overarching mandates such as those mentioned in paragraph 3 of the SAMOA Pathway, the majority of United Nations system organizations contribute at some level to fostering the sustainable development of SIDS. They do not necessarily have targeted programmes for SIDS but provide support through their sectoral mandates on education, energy, environment, industrial development and governance, inter alia.

34. The environmental conventions, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the BRS Conventions), the Convention on Wetlands (the Ramsar Convention), the Convention on the Law of the Sea, inter alia, are also contributing to various degrees with their work addressing issues of high relevance to SIDS.

35. The responses of the organizations reflect the priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway to which they are contributing, and by what means.[22] Their work is carried out not only within the United Nations system but also in close cooperation in the field with regional institutions which play a key role for SIDS, such as the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), or the Commonwealth Secretariat. This is an aspect of support for SIDS that will need to be addressed in a comprehensive review on fostering implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, since the United Nations system cannot deliver all its potential in that respect unless it liaises and coordinates its work with SIDS regional political and technical forums and other institutions whose work relates to SIDS, through effective partnerships.

36. United Nations funds and programmes are champions of good practices of coordination in the field, in particular through the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and through participation in the United Nations resident coordinator system. The present review does not allow for further details to be provided on the extensive work developed by funds, programmes, and specialized agencies. However JIU collected evidence of the strategic work being carried out by funds and programmes in support of SIDS. The recent "Blue Growth strategy" or the regional work developed by FAO in the framework of the Zero Hunger initiative Framework in Timor-Leste, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada, are examples of relevant work in support of SIDS.[23]

37. Good practices were also identified in the work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which provided strong support, advisory services and capacity-building to SIDS on key environmental issues particularly relevant to them. In the ministerial outcome document of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP (June 2014), the international community was urged "to foster and encourage the development of genuine and durable partnerships to address environmental challenges faced by small island developing States". UNEP has been providing diverse and continued support to SIDS, in particular but not only, through the UNEP Caribbean SIDS Programme, was adopted by the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean — to which UNEP is the secretariat — pursuant to Decision 4 of its fourteenth Meeting, held in 2003, as the main policy framework for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Caribbean SIDS.

---

[21] See annex III for sample activities.

[22] See annex II.

[23] See "*Global Blue Growth Initiative and Small Island Developing States*" and "*Realizing Economic Opportunities in Agriculture to Promote Greater Food Security in Pacific Island Countries. 32nd Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. Mongolia*", Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2014. Available from www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/sids/PDF/Blue_Growth_policy_paper.pdf

38. The recent JIU report on Post-Rio+20 environmental governance within the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2014/4) revealed that SIDS were addressed by a significant number of organizations,[24] as reconfirmed by the results of the survey undertaken for the present review. The weakest link is the lack of system-wide effective coordination and overall monitoring of those organizations' activities in support of SIDS.

United Nations presence in New York

39. The United Nations system is represented in various forms in New York as (a) the home of intergovernmental processes and inter-agency forums; (b) the location of the headquarters of a significant number of United Nations entities, in particular United Nations funds and programmes.

40. In order to strengthen institutional support for SIDS and for the accelerated implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, ways must be identified to involve all stakeholders, both from organizations and from policy forums and processes. This section sets out the key institutional partners.

High-level Political Forum

41. The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)[25] replaced the Commission on Sustainable Development, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/203. The Forum is instrumental in finalizing the process towards the post-2015 development agenda and therefore has a critical role in ensuring that the concerns of SIDS are duly reflected in the sustainable development agenda to be adopted in September 2015.[26] DESA provides Secretariat support to HLPF sessions on SIDS.

42. The General Assembly, in paragraph 11 of its resolution 67/290, on the format and organizational aspects of HLPF, decided that the forum would devote adequate time to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing developing countries, including the most vulnerable countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries.

43. SIDS participate in the intergovernmental processes under the umbrella of AOSIS. Established in 1990, AOSIS is an intergovernmental coalition of 44 member States and observers. Member States are drawn from all oceans and regions of the world, and are small islands and low-lying coastal countries. They share similar environmental and development challenges, particularly in relation to climate change. AOSIS, currently chaired by Maldives, presents a unified negotiating voice for SIDS with the United Nations system,[27] and provides a platform for knowledge-sharing among SIDS countries.[28] AOSIS played an active role in the adoption of the SAMOA Pathway, calling for sustainable capacity-building in SIDS, as well as in the ongoing negotiations in the context of UNFCCC.[29]

Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Development Policy

44. The Economic and Social Council is explicitly referred to in paragraph 123 of the SAMOA Pathway and, together with HLPF, is requested to devote adequate time to the discussion of support for the sustainable development of SIDS.

---

[24] See JIU/REP/2014/4 - A/69/763, annex I.

[25] See para. 123 of the SAMOA Pathway, addressing the role of HLPF in monitoring and accountability.

[26] See General Assembly resolution 69/217, para. 26.

[27] See http://aosis.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/2015.01.19-Statement-Stocktaking-General-FINAL.pdf.

[28] See http://aosis.org/.

[29] See http://unfccc.int/files/bodies/awg/application/pdf/adp2-8_opening_statement_aosis_8feb2015.pdf.

45. The Committee for Development Policy (CDP) is a subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council[30]. It provides expert input on development issues to the high-level segment of the Council. In 2010, the Committee produced a background paper on SIDS issues in which it raised essential questions related to the challenges involved in establishing a specific strategy for SIDS. Those issues in most cases remain unresolved.

46. SIDS[31] share certain characteristics but belong to various United Nations special categories. Only nine are least-developed countries (LDCs), while the rest are middle- or high-income countries. A specific policy for SIDS should cover the issues that are relevant to all of them, on the basis of their "common but differentiated vulnerabilities", such as those related to climate change, isolation, remoteness, import-dependency, transport, the digital divide, chemicals and waste management, small economic scale and social issues, inter alia.[32]

United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

47. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination[33] (CEB) is the highest forum for inter-agency coordination within the United Nations system, and consists of 29 organizations.[34]

48. The Board was involved in the preparation of the SAMOA Pathway and underlined the commitment of all its members, under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General, to contribute, within the context of their respective mandates, to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.[35]

49. The Board's work is supported by its secretariat and is developed through three mechanisms: the High-level Committee on Management (HLCM), the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). The latter is a key facilitator for the implementation of operational activities at the regional and country levels, together with its secretariat, the United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office (UNDOCO).

50. UNDG brings together 32 United Nations funds, programmes, agencies, departments and offices. In close collaboration with UNDP and the resident coordinator system, and with all other funds, programmes and specialized agencies involved in development issues, UNDG and UNDOCO are essential partners in the field at the regional and country levels.

51. During their mission to New York, the Inspectors met with staff of UNDOCO, and noted with appreciation the role of the Office in providing support to SIDS at the regional and country levels. However, UNDOCO is not participating at IACG meetings on a regular basis, as it is not a member of the group. **The Inspectors therefore invite DESA to take the necessary steps for UNDG and UNDOCO to become regular members of IACG.**

Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) for SIDS

52. IACG, chaired by the Division of Sustainable Development of DESA, is an informal hybrid coordinating mechanism.[36] It is composed of SIDS focal points from different United Nations entities, agencies, the regional

[30] See CDP Background Paper No. 10 ST/ESA/2010/CDP/10 June 2010 *Views and perspectives of the Committee for Development Policy on United Nations support for small island developing States*, by Philip Hein (2010).

[31] See annex IV.

[32] For a recent review of SIDS, see *Addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States more effectively* (UNCTAD/LDC/2014).

[33] See CEB high-level event on SIDS http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/general-assembly/main-committees/4th-committee/watch/ceb-high-level-event-the-un-system-partnering-for-the-people-of-sids/3762444460001#full-text.

[34] See www.unsceb.org/content/member-organizations.

[35] See http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/general-assembly/main-committees/4th-committee/watch/ceb-high-level-event-the-un-system-partnering-for-the-people-of-sids/3762444460001#full-text.

[36] Its creation originates from General Assembly resolution 58/213 with further references in resolution 59/311 and resolution A/RES/65/156.

commissions, and global and regional intergovernmental organizations involved in SIDS issues. It provides a unique forum with enlarged membership involving global and regional IGOs such as the Commonwealth Secretariat, PIFS, SPC, SPREP, CARICOM, OECS and IOC. These non-United Nations entities work very closely and sometimes directly with their SIDS constituencies by providing briefings and policy advice, technical and capacity-building support and meet focused information needs.

53. The IACG on SIDS is a forum for its members to exchange information, share experiences, collaborate on providing substantive input and participate in joint preparation to support SIDS at the national, regional, interregional and global levels in planning for events and processes in SIDS-related areas of common interest, such as the Rio+20 summit, the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC, the Meeting of the Parties to CBD, ocean-related events and the 2014 Samoa Conference/Third Conference for SIDS. The members represent a variety of organizations and departments, including the Global Environment Facility and the World Bank. International Financial Institutions (IFIs), of high relevance for the sustainable development SIDS, are also part of the IACG. They have a critical role to play, as recalled by paragraphs 28, 103 and 116 (b) of the Samoa pathway, in contributing to the sustainable development of SIDS which, in spite that the majority of them are of high-income level countries, share profiles of vulnerability that require specific tailor-made strategies.

54. The criteria for establishing IACG membership were not found in reviewing the information provided by DESA. The secretariat of only one multilateral environmental agreement, the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) is currently a member of IACG. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, the secretariat for the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), is also a member.[37] However, organizations concerned with climate change, land degradation and diversification, chemicals and waste management, among other critical issues for SIDS, are not represented in IACG.

55. Paragraph 124 of the SAMOA Pathway provides an opportunity to recalibrate the role and effectiveness of IACG. Indeed, DESA and OHRLLS have made progress in that direction. They set up a task force involving UNDP, UNFPA and other United Nations entities, to work together after the Samoa Conference to prepare a revised strategy paper, issued in December 2014, to galvanize the dynamics of IACG.

56. According to the information provided by DESA, the main activities currently being pursued through IACG are:

- Regular meetings via teleconference to coordinate joint planning for major events
- Coordination of the various activities carried out as part of the major events
- Promotion of efficient and coordinated use of resources for project implementation
- Collaboration on resource mobilization and exploring viable partnerships with donors and the wider international community
- Consultation among participating entities to advance mainstreaming and the promotion of synergies on SIDS issues in the programmes of the United Nations system
- Exchange of information on planned events, ongoing initiatives of relevance, data, etc. to be fed into the SIDSnet[38]
- Harmonization of the Mauritius Strategy Initiative regional plans of operationalization to ensure comprehensive oversight of SIDS priority programmes.

57. While the work of this group seems to be the most tangible and effective, it appears that it is not sufficiently visible and the group's working procedures and terms of reference are unclear to some stakeholders. **The Inspectors consider that the role of IACG should be assessed in the comprehensive review.**

[37] See JIU/REP/2012/2.

[38] The setting up of a Small Island Developing States Information Network resulted from the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS, held in Barbados in 1994, as a mean to "facilitate the exchange of experience among small island developing States" (A/CONF.167/9, page 33). See www.sidsnet.com.

58. As a result of the ongoing revamping of IACG, there have been increased efforts in planning the programme of work and in timely sharing of the agendas for future sessions. Items expected to be on the agenda in March and April 2015 are the forthcoming SIDS-dedicated segment of HLPF, SIDS data and statistic issues, SIDS and the post-2015 development agenda, financing for development, and the linkages of operational activities of IACG members to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

59. The Inspectors acknowledge the high value of the work undertaken by DESA within its scarce existing resources, which have not increased in proportion to the huge development of SIDS-related issues and in line with the urgent action required on particular matters to help them not only to develop sustainably but also to build up timely resilience to overcome the serious threats of climate change.

60. Building on the findings of previous JIU reports, in particular in the area of environmental governance and Rio+20,[39] **the Inspectors invite DESA and the members of IACG to consider lessons learned from the functioning of the Environment Management Group, chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme, in promoting information exchange, setting up management groups on thematic issues and developing good practices for inter-agency work.**[40]

In order to strengthen coordination and effectiveness, the Inspectors are of the view that:

Recommendation 4

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review assesses the role and functioning of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States (IACG) and proposes concrete measures to strengthen its effectiveness as a coordinating forum, involving all the relevant institutional partners, from the United Nations system and non-United Nations entities, such as the international financial institutions, to foster the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and to facilitate its monitoring.

ECESA Plus

61. The Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (ECESA) was used as a coordinating mechanism in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The Secretary-General of the Rio+20 Conference[41] extended the membership of ECESA to include the heads of all United Nations system entities (including funds and programmes, specialized agencies, international financial institutions and the World Trade Organization) as well as the Rio Conventions' secretariats, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and IOM. The Committee thus became ECESA Plus. It now comprises 51 members and three observers and it maintains links with CEB and its subsidiary bodies, including the United Nations Development Group, and the Environment Management Group. It also includes research and training institutes such as the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)[42] and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)[43] which contribute with their specialized expertise and with capacity-building.[44]

62. In the course of 2013–2014, ECESA Plus, convened by DESA, served as the interface for the preparations of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, complementing the work of IACG on SIDS. ECESA Plus currently serves as the coordinating platform for the follow-up of both Rio+20 and the

[39] JIU/REP/2008/3 and JIU/REP/2014/4.

[40] See JIU/REP/2014/4, op. cit., paras. 100–104.

[41] In May 2010, the Secretary-General nominated the Under-Secretary-General of Economic and Social Affairs as the Secretary-General of the Conference.

[42] See UNRISD publication: "Social Policies in Samoa".

[43] UNITAR recently launched a free online training on SIDS and Climate Change, available from www.coursera.org/course/sids.

[44] The full list of memberships can be consulted at: http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1442.

SAMOA Pathway, and is supported in its day-to-day operations by the DESA Division for Sustainable Development.

63. **The Inspectors note the involvement of ECESA Plus in providing support to SIDS, with OHRLLS and DESA in its membership, and consider that further clarification on its role, in accordance with paragraph 124 (a) of the SAMOA Pathway, should be addressed in a comprehensive review on SIDS in order to avoid potential overlap.**

Funds and Programmes with a presence in New York

64. The Inspectors met with officials from UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women during their visit to New York. They noted the important work being undertaken by all those agencies in areas of direct concern for SIDS, in close coordination with their field offices, with open channels of communication, feedback and interaction.

65. Since the present advisory review has been prepared under time and scope constraints, it will not report in depth on the detailed information provided by funds and programmes (and by specialized agencies).[45] The Inspectors wished, however, to point out that the interviews and the responses to the questionnaires indicated that the United Nations system, and, in particular, its funds and programmes, are definitely contributing with commitment and determination, within their existing resources, to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway priorities areas, within the context of their respective mandates.

66. UNDP, as the organization with the core mandate on development issues in the United Nations system, and with its near-global network of regional and country offices, translates policy processes in New York into action on the ground. UNDG is headed by the UNDP Administrator, paving the way for smooth interaction to organize the delivery in the field, through the United Nations resident coordinator system and UNDOCO.

67. UNDP informed the Inspectors that all SIDS are covered by either resident or accredited United Nations country teams operating under UNDAF through 19 multi-country and country offices on the ground in SIDS, with additional support from the United Nations Development Programme Pacific Centre and other country-level presences. UNDP further reported that it intends to scale up its delivery in SIDS in line with the SAMOA Pathway through those platforms, and that working within the UNDG framework would render implementation more effective.

68. The use of regional United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) is particularly relevant for SIDS, owing to their remoteness, size and difficulty of access. Working on a regional level increases efficiency in the use of resources and facilitates the addressing of issues of common concern in the regional/subregional groups. Working with the local authorities contributes to creating synergies among different ministries with a view to building a mutually supportive agenda covering interrelated areas (e.g. fisheries, agriculture, environment, etc.). Capacity-building on institutional strengthening would support better performance in addressing SIDS-specific challenges. **In the view of the Inspectors, a comprehensive review should also focus on field-level operations and United Nations coordination through the resident coordinator system, balancing streamlined guidance and oversight from Headquarters with a robust bottom-up approach, incorporating information from the valuable experience gained and challenges faced at the national and regional levels.**

69. Interviews with UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women confirmed the relevance of the work in the field and the need to increase its visibility in policy and inter-governmental/inter-agency processes at Headquarters. Population, youth, children and gender issues are some of the SAMOA Pathway priorities. UNICEF gave positive feedback on the functioning of IACG on SIDS as a platform for inter-agency coordination and information exchange, and highlighted its important role in the run-up to the Samoa Conference. Collaboration has been further strengthened since the conference, as part of the ongoing reform process IACG.

[45] The extensive qualitative information provided can be used in the future for any follow-up review on the same matter. See annex II.

70. UNFPA reported that in November 2014 it met with representatives of Samoa and reiterated its full support for the implementation of the outcome document. It also referred to the cooperation at regional level among UNFPA subregional offices with regard to delivery of multi-country programmes, as part of the activities of UNDG for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG LAC) and ECLAC.[46] UNFPA indicated its support for building on the momentum of the outcome of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session held in September 2014 to discuss the progress on and achievement of the goals of the landmark International Conference on Population and Development.

71. The Inspectors also met with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), which is actively involved in supporting activities for SIDS, such as reporting on innovative partnerships in South-South cooperation on land management, and addressing project-related activities on disaster-risk reduction and climate change in SIDS. Their activities are organized around partnership and cooperation with other United Nations entities, such as UNDP (e.g. Pacific Centre in Fiji), OHRLLS and DESA, and regional organizations, with the support of SIDS governments, as well as some of their development and private sector partners, such as the Pacific Island Private Sector Organization (PIPSO) and the Caribbean Centre for Competitiveness, inter alia.

Other relevant organizations of the United Nations system

72. The country presence of funds, programmes, specialized agencies and some regional centres of environmental conventions in small island developing States is a key factor in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. Joint delivery through UNDAFs and the resident coordinator system, involving organizations such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) or the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) should be strengthened.

73. UNODC implements partnerships with UNDP, primarily in the Pacific region, as well as in the Caribbean in partnerships with CARICOM and the World Bank. A global UNDP-UNODC event on anticorruption reform in SIDS is also planned for 2015. ICAO has developed the concept of an Essential Service and Tourism Development Route (ESTDR) scheme in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), aiming at ensuring lifeline provision of air services for remote or peripheral destinations of the world irrespective of the profitability of individual operations and stimulating inward tourism and investment. ESTDR is particularly relevant for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in its response to the survey, also referred to the need to focus on regional, more than country-based, support for SIDS, owing to their specificities, which hamper delivery at the country level for very small States.

74. With regard to the SIDS, membership of the executive boards of funds and programmes, or in the bureaus of the conferences and meetings of the parties to environmental conventions should be encouraged as a means to ensure better consideration of the needs of SIDS.[47]

75. Special reference should be made to the role of the secretariats of environmental conventions such as the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and its support in addressing acute waste management issues, which are highly relevant to SIDS. Their regional centres provide support to several countries in the Pacific region. The CBD and UNCCD secretariats contribute to biodiversity and land management issues, critical areas for building resilience and reducing vulnerability. A comprehensive review

[46] An inter-agency task force has been set up under UNDG LAC to map the activities in the Caribbean to put it in context of the Samoa Pathway and to prepare a strategic plan of action for the Caribbean.

[47] UNDP mentioned that, since 1994, when BPOA was adopted, 11 SIDS have served on the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board, thus ensuring that the organizations remain responsive to the evolving needs of those States.

should not neglect the role of those Conventions as part of the overall architecture for support to SIDS from the United Nations system.

76. Recalling paragraph 70, 71 and 109 of the SAMOA Pathway, **the Inspectors are of the view that the United Nations system should strengthen its support to SIDS, through improved collaboration with the secretariats of the Rio Conventions and other environmental conventions such as UNCLOS, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Minamata Convention on Mercury, inter alia, through capacity-building and provision of advisory services to SIDS to promote the ratification of the environmental conventions and their implementation at national level.**

III. OTHER FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Monitoring and accountability framework for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway

77. The Inspectors noted a perception among stakeholders of weak institutional support as provided by United Nations Headquarters. Measures for improvement should focus on reorganizing existing resources, assessing the current level of resources and its commensurability with mandates, and the sharing of resources across the system to promote cross-fertilization, coherence and effectiveness in the use of existing resources.

78. Reporting on the system-wide contribution to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway should be conducted through an effective monitoring and accountability framework, including through the use of the current follow-up matrix on the implementation of the Pathway, which was set up by DESA and managed by ECESA Plus, to follow up on the roles and contributions of United Nations organizations in addressing the priority areas of the Pathway. A results-based-management monitoring framework would ensure regular monitoring and updated reporting on the status of its implementation.

In order to increase system-wide coherence and accountability in the provision of United Nations system institutional support to SIDS, the Inspectors recommend that:

Recommendation 5

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review analyses the institutional set-up in place in accordance with paragraphs 122 to 124 of the SAMOA Pathway and the coordination process aimed at monitoring and reporting on its effective implementation, with a view to preventing overlap and fostering synergies across the United Nations system.

B. Communication and information sharing between the United Nations Secretariat and representatives of Member States

79. The Inspectors were informed of cases of apparent duplication between the Secretariat — DESA and OHRLLS — in their outreach and interaction with some representatives of Member States, with reference to a recent request, which reached the permanent missions of the Member States through different channels, covering closely related issues.

80. DESA was collecting information to develop recommendations for a partnership framework, in accordance with paragraph 101 of the SAMOA Pathway, while OHRLLS was following up on consultations it had had in late 2014 with Friends of SIDS Private, an informal grouping of likeminded Member States, which had requested OHRLLS to put together draft terms of reference related to the development of a SIDS Global Business Network, a key outcome of the Private Sector Partnership Forum.[48]

81. Both units were acting in accordance with their respective mandates. However, better coordination within the Secretariat would have led to more clarity as to the purpose, and the two Units could have coordinated their request to cover all areas of interest on partnerships, thus reducing the burden of work.

82. The Inspectors are of the view that all information on SIDS issues could be collected through a single integrated line of communication from the United Nations Secretariat with Member States, United Nations system organizations and other relevant stakeholders. A common information database to support the delivery of various tasks assigned to different parts of the Secretariat would facilitate coordination and synergies. The work

[48] Pre-Conference event jointly organized by OHRLLS with the Government of Samoa and the Samoa Chamber of Commerce during the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2014.

done by DESA and OHRLLS could be available on the same platform, including input from the rest of the United Nations system. This platform would include the matrix for the follow-up on the SAMOA Pathway.[49]

83. The interviews also revealed that the co-existing mandates on SIDS to be covered by DESA and OHRLLS give rise to difficulties for the Member States with regard to finding specific information to respond to their questions. **In the view of the Inspectors, the Secretariat should improve its channels of communication and better coordinate its requests to Member States.** Efforts should be made to clarify responsibilities. In the meantime, the two Units should strengthen their coordination so that issues falling under both mandates are addressed jointly through ex-ante coordination.

84. The Inspectors were informed that some forms of regular contact with Member States, in particular with AOSIS and with development partners, have been discontinued. Since AOSIS is the negotiation forum representing the interests of SIDS, regular meetings between the United Nations Secretariat at Headquarters and permanent representatives, would constitute a good practice for communication and information exchange.[50]

In order to improve coordination and communication and enhance transparency in work related to supporting SIDS priorities, the Inspectors recommend that:

Recommendation 6

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review addresses institutional and managerial mechanisms for strengthening coordination between DESA and OHRLLS in performing the tasks related to their respective mandates on support to SIDS, in order to avoid overlap and enhance the effectiveness of their work, and to increase transparency in their communication with Member States.

C. Coordination between the United Nations Secretariat at Headquarters and other entities of the United Nations system

85. The responses to the questionnaires by organizations of the United Nations system and the secretariats of environmental conventions relevant to SIDS revealed weak coordination with United Nations Headquarters.

86. This is not the case for the funds and programmes with strong representation in the field. During the Inspectors' mission in New York, they organized videoconferences with their Pacific and Caribbean regional offices which provided insightful information to the Inspectors. Stakeholders recognize the pivotal role of funds and programmes in providing support for SIDS on the ground, in particular through the United Nations resident coordinator system, ensuring coherence in implementation at the regional and country levels. A comprehensive review could assess the challenges faced by those entities active in SIDS which ultimately have the burden of ensuring the successful and effective implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

87. The Inspectors noted that the representatives of Member States were lacking information on the existing inter-agency coordination mechanisms for SIDS organized by the Secretariat, in particular on the work of IACG, and expressed their desire to be better informed on its work and outcomes.

88. Reporting on the progress made in implementing BPOA and MSI, and now the SAMOA Pathway, has been led by DESA, under its reporting mandate and through consultation with ECESA Plus, IACG and member States. Reporting should not be limited only to SIDS processes but should also link to the broader issue of United

[49] See www.sids2014.org/unmatrix. Current reporting through the matrix is populated by the organizations themselves. As reported during the interviews, the current contents of the matrix do not fully reflect the current status of implementation. Reporting is not regular; it is voluntary and non-systematic.

[50] The involvement of funds and programmes, in particular those directly concerned with implementation of capacity-building for SIDS, would certainly add value to these regular meetings.

Nations system support for SIDS and HLPF reviews, and address the question of how the needs of SIDS will be mainstreamed in the post-2015 development agenda and SDGs review, and other relevant global processes in the future.

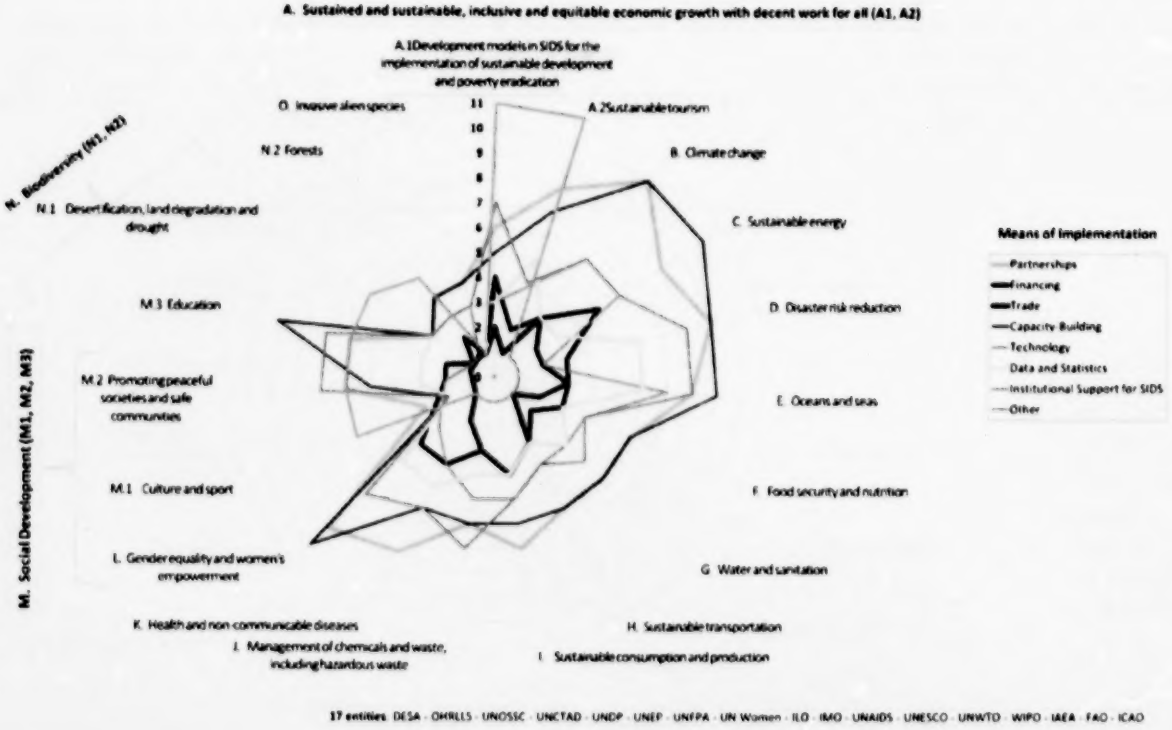
89. Strategic thinking to plan and report on United Nations institutional support for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway under a single umbrella, in a coordinated manner, would contribute to better use of resources, greater satisfaction on the part of the beneficiaries and their development partners, and a reduced burden for the SIDS Units of DESA and OHRLLS.

90. Last but not least, the involvement of the secretariats of the Rio Conventions (e.g. UNFCCC) and other relevant environmental conventions through inter-agency mechanisms, such as ECESA Plus and IACG, would facilitate consideration of highly relevant issues for SIDS, such as climate change, oceans, biodiversity, chemicals and waste management. This should be done with the support of UNDP, UNDG and UNDOCO, the regional commissions, and through dissemination of strategic guidance for joint programming and implementation in the field by the United Nations country teams. The involvement of non-resident agencies with long-standing expertise on SIDS, such as UNCTAD, should be part of this system-wide effort to streamline the SAMOA Pathway to ensure sustainable development of SIDS.

Annex I: Mandates of DESA and OHRLLS on SIDS

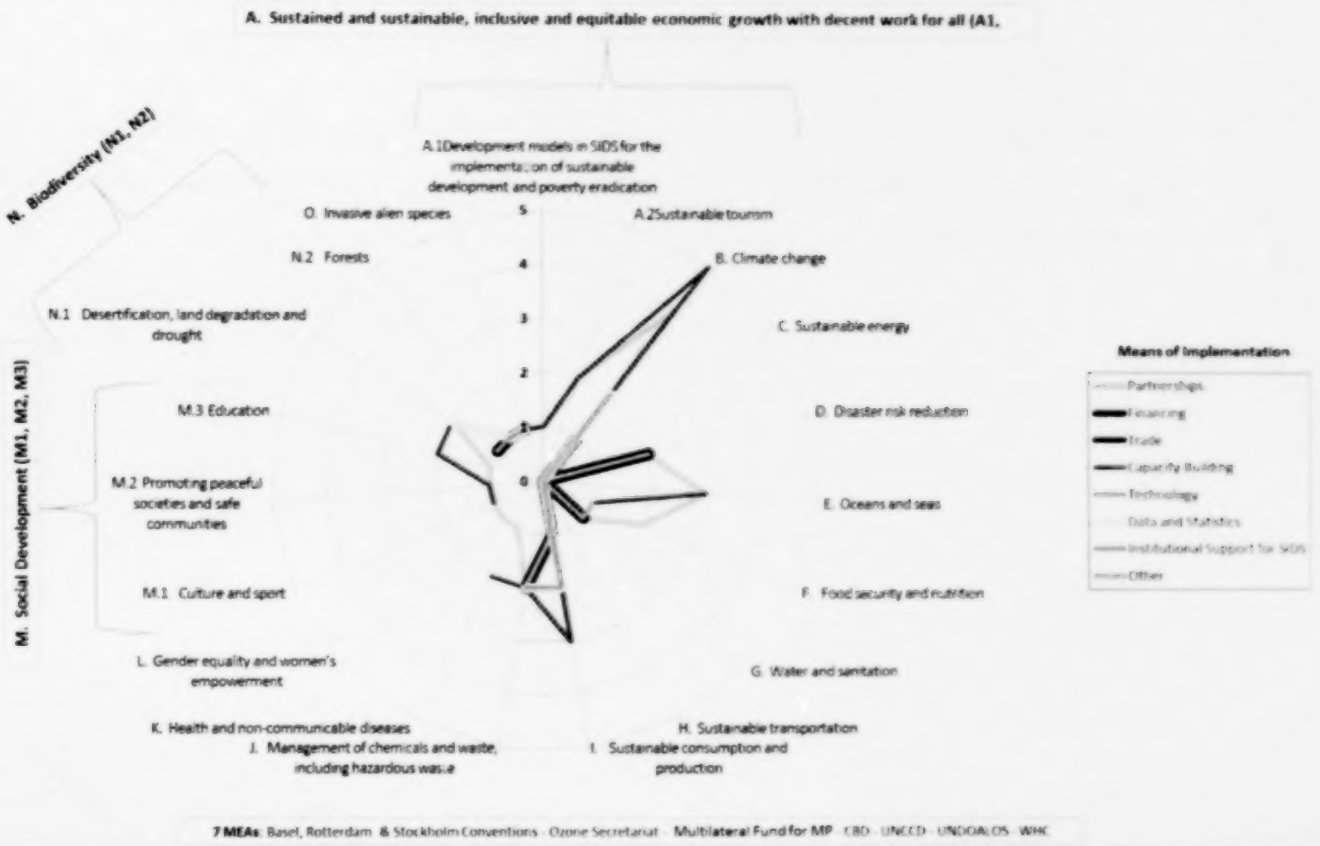
Mandate	DESA	OHRLLS
To undertake a full range of functions in **support** of the system-wide implementation and review of **Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA), and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI)**	General Assembly resolutions 49/122, 50/116, 51/183, 57/262, 59/311, 60/194, 62/191, 63/213, 64/199, and 65/156	General Assembly resolutions 57/262, 63/213, and 64/199
To support, as appropriate, the coordinated follow up of the implementation of BPOA		General Assembly resolution 56/227 (para. 1) assigning functions set out in the Secretary General's report (A/56/645, para. 17)
United Nations system-wide coordination and cooperation with other relevant multilateral organizations and dissemination of information on activities in support of SIDS and BPOA to ensure effective implementation and monitoring (BPOA, MSI)	General Assembly resolutions 56/198, 58/213, and 59/229	General Assembly resolution 69/15
Advocacy and mobilization of international support and resources To provide support to group consultations of SIDS		General Assembly resolutions 56/227 (para. 1) assigning functions set out in the Secretary General's report (A/56/645, para. 17) and 69/15
Provision of assistance, technical cooperation services and support to SIDS	General Assembly resolutions 64/199 and 69/15	

Annex II A - Contribution of the JIU participating organizations to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway by means of implementation


A. Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all (A1, A2)
A.1Development models in SIDS for the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication
A.2Sustainable tourism
B. Climate change
C. Sustainable energy
D. Disaster risk reduction
E. Oceans and seas
F. Food security and nutrition
G. Water and sanitation
H. Sustainable transportation
I. Sustainable consumption and production
J. Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste
K. Health and non-communicable diseases
L. Gender equality and women's empowerment
M. Social Development (M1, M2, M3)
M.1 Culture and sport
M.2 Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities
M.3 Education
N. Biodiversity (N1, N2)
N.1 Desertification, land degradation and drought
N.2 Forests
O. Invasive alien species
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
Means of Implementation
Partnerships
Financing
Trade
Capacity Building
Technology
Data and Statistics
Institutional Support for SIDS
Other
17 entities DESA - OHRLLS - UNOSSC - UNCTAD - UNDP - UNEP - UNFPA - UN Women - ILO - IMO - UNAIDS - UNESCO - UNWTO - WIPO - IAEA - FAO - ICAO

Note: The scale represents the number of organizations involved in each area, by means of implementation. Priority areas are in accordance with GA Resolution 69/15.
Source: JIU elaboration based on the data from the survey of March 2015. While UNODC participated to the survey, it did not provide data for this question.

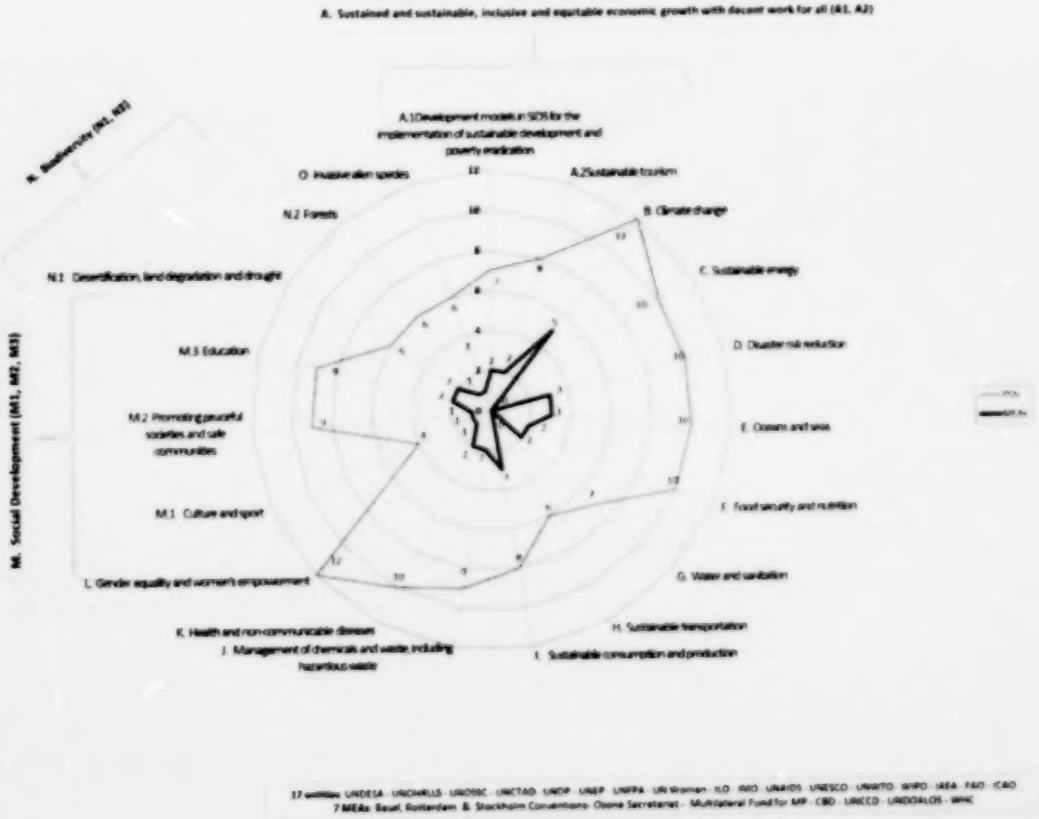
Annex II B - Contribution of MEAs to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway by means of implementation


A. Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all (A1,
A.1Development models in SIDS for the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication
A.2Sustainable tourism
B. Climate change
C. Sustainable energy
D. Disaster risk reduction
E. Oceans and seas
F. Food security and nutrition
G. Water and sanitation
H. Sustainable transportation
I. Sustainable consumption and production
J. Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste
K. Health and non-communicable diseases
L. Gender equality and women's empowerment
M. Social Development (M1, M2, M3)
M.1 Culture and sport
M.2 Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities
M.3 Education
N. Biodiversity (N1, N2)
N.1 Desertification, land degradation and drought
N.2 Forests
O. Invasive alien species
5
4
3
2
1
0
Means of Implementation
Partnerships
Financing
Trade
Capacity Building
Technology
Data and Statistics
Institutional Support for SIDS
Other
7 MEAs: Basel, Rotterdam & Stockholm Conventions - Ozone Secretariat - Multilateral Fund for MP - CBD - UNCCD - UNDOALOS - WHC

Note: The scale represents the number of organizations involved in each area, by means of implementation. Some data lines (e.g. Finance and Technology) are shown in multiple colours as they coincide. Priority areas are in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 69/15.

Source: JIU, based on the data from its survey of March 2015. While UNFCCC participated to the survey, it did not provide data for this question.

Annex II C - Contribution of the JIU participating organizations and MEAs to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway (aggregated by all means of implementation)

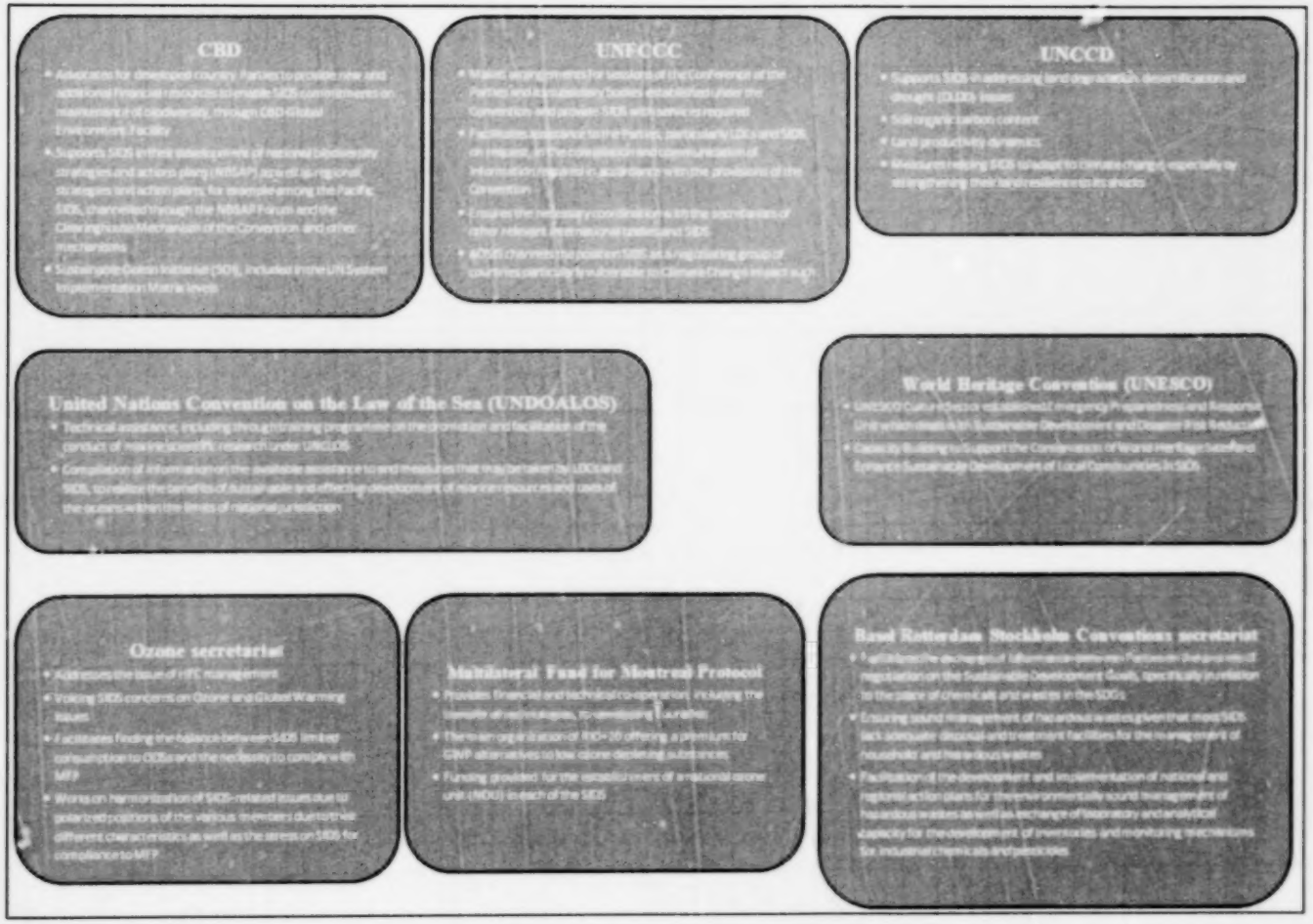

A. Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all (A1, A2)
A.1Development models in SIDS for the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication
A.2Sustainable tourism
B. Climate change
C. Sustainable energy
D. Disaster risk reduction
E. Oceans and seas
F. Food security and nutrition
G. Water and sanitation
H. Sustainable transportation
I. Sustainable consumption and production
J. Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste
K. Health and non-communicable diseases
L. Gender equality and women's empowerment
M. Social Development (M1, M2, M3)
M.1 Culture and sport
M.2 Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities
M.3 Education
N.1 Desertification, land degradation and drought
N.2 Forests
O. Invasive alien species
N. Biodiversity (N1, N2)

17 entities UNDESA · UNOHRLLS · UNOSSC · UNCTAD · UNDP · UNEP · UNFPA · UN Women · ILO · IMO · UNAIDS · UNESCO · UNWTO · WHO · IAEA · FAO · ICAO
7 MEAs Basel, Rotterdam & Stockholm Conventions· Ozone Secretariat · Multilateral Fund for MP · CBD · UNCCD · UNDOALOS · WHC

Note: The scale represents the number of organizations involved in each area, considering all means of implementation together. Priority areas are in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 69/15.
Source: JIU, based on the data from its survey as of March 2015. While UNODC and UNFCCC participated to the survey, they did not provide data for this question.

Annex III A - Selected samples of activities to support SIDS and the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway by the United Nations system

Annex III B - Selected samples of activities to support SIDS and the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway by secretariats of MEAs



Annex IV - SIDS groups according to United Nations organizations and international forums

SIDS Groupings	United Nations Secretariat			Regional Commissions				UN Special Agency	Non United Nations System					
	DESA	OHRLLS	UNCTAD	ECLAC	ESCWA	ESCAP	ECA	UNESCO	ACSAD	CAPECOM	CARIFORUM	ACP	IOC	IW
AIMS (Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea)														
Bahrain	✗	✓	✗	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cabo Verde	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-
Comoros*	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-
Guinea Bissau*	✓	✓	✗	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-
Madagascar	✗	✗	✗	-	-	-	-	✗	-	-	-	-	✓	-
Maldives	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Mauritius	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-
São Tomé and Príncipe*	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-
Seychelles	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-
Singapore	✓	✓	✗	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-
SUB TOTAL	**8**	**9**	**6**	-	**1**	**2**	**6**	**9**	**8**	-	-	**6**	**4**	-
THE CARIBBEAN and Connected Seas														
Anguilla	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	A	-	O	O	-	-	-
Antigua and Barbuda	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Aruba	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	A	-	-	O	-	-	-
Bahamas	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Barbados	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Belize	✓	✓	✗	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Bermuda	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	✗	-	O	-	-	-	-
British Virgin Islands	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	A	-	O	O	-	-	-
Cayman Islands	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	A	-	O	O	-	-	-
Cuba	✓	✓	✗	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-
Curaçao	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dominica	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Dominican Republic	✓	✓	✗	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-
French Guyana	✗	✗	✗	-	-	-	-	✗	-	-	O	-	-	-
Grenada	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Guadeloupe	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	✗	-	-	O	-	-	-
Guyana	✓	✓	✗	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Haiti*	✓	✓	✗	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Jamaica	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Martinique	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	✗	-	-	O	-	-	-
Montserrat	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	✗	-	✓	O	-	-	-
Netherlands Antilles	✗	✗	✗	-	-	-	-	✗	O	-	O	-	-	-
Sint Marteen	✗	✗	✗	A	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rico	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	✗	O	-	-	-	-	-
Saint Kitts and Nevis	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Saint Lucia	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Suriname	✓	✓	✗	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Trinidad and Tobago	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Turks and Caicos Islands	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	✗	-	O	O	-	-	-
U.S. Virgin Islands	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	✗	O	-	-	-	-	-
SUB TOTAL	**16**	**16**	**10**	**16**	-	-	-	**16**	**16**	**15**	**16**	**16**	-	-
THE PACIFIC														
American Samoa	✗	A	✗	-	-	A	-	✗	O	-	-	-	-	SO
Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas	✗	A	✗	-	-	A	-	✗	-	-	-	-	-	SO
Cook Islands	✓	A	✗	-	-	A	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Fiji	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
French Polynesia	✗	A	✗	-	-	A	-	✗	-	-	-	-	-	A
Guam	✗	A	✗	-	-	A	-	✗	O	-	-	-	-	SO
Kiribati*	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Marshall Islands	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Federal State of Micronesia	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Nauru	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
New Caledonia	✗	A	✗	-	-	A	-	✗	-	-	-	-	-	A
Niue	✓	A	✗	-	-	A	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Palau	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Papua New Guinea	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Samoa	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Solomon Islands*	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Timor Leste*	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	SO
Tokelau	✗	✗	✗	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	A
Tonga	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Tuvalu*	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Vanuatu*	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Wallis and Futuna	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	SO
SUB TOTAL:	**15**	**13**	**13**	-	-	**13**	-	**15**	**15**	-	-	**15**	-	**14**
Members (Associate Members)	**39**	**38 (19)**	**29**	**16 (13)**	**1**	**15 (7)**	**6**	**40 (7)**	**38**	**15**	**16**	**37**	**4**	**14 (3)**

* Least Developed Country (LDC).

Note:
- (A) indicates Associate Member, (O) indicates Observer, and (SO) indicates Special Observer

Sources:
United Nations System:
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA): www.sidsnet.org/country-profiles
UN-OHRLLS: http://unohrlls.org/about-sids/country-profiles/
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD): unctad.org/en/pages/aldc/Small%20Island%20Developing%20States/UNCTAD%C2%B4s-unofficial-list-of-SIDS.aspx
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/priority-areas/sids/about-unesco-and-sids/sids-list/

Regional commissions:
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): http://www.cepal.org/en/estados-miembros
United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA): http://www.escwa.un.org/about/members_8_2012.pdf
United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP): www.unescap.org/about/member-states
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA): www.uneca.org/pages/member-states

Non-United Nations:
AOSIS: http://aosis.org/about/members/
Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM): www.caricom.org/jsp/community/member_states.jsp?menu=community
Forum of the Caribbean Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States (CARIFORUM): www.caricom.org/jsp/community_organs/cariforum/cariforum_main_page.jsp?menu=cob
African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States (ACP): www.acp.int/node/7
Indian Ocean Commission (IOC): http://commissionoceanindien.org/membres/
Pacific Islands Forum (PIF): www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/about-us/?printerfriendly=true